

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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FOR EXECUTIVE COUNSELOR CALDERHEAD ONLY FROM KRIEGER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, MX

SUBJECT: ABOLISHMENT OF POSITIONS

1. WITH REFERENCE TO MAY 28 LETTER FROM ACKERMAN TO AMBASSADOR JOVA AND PREVIOUS CORRESPONDENCE, BUREAU CONTINUES TO SEEK MUTUALLY AGREEABLE SOLUTION ON TWO ADDITIONAL U.S. POSITIONS TO BE ABOLISHED DURING FY 1977 IN MEXICO CITY.

2. THE LATEST EMBASSY PROPOSAL, CONCURRED WITH BY THE BUREAU, WAS TO ABOLISH THE POSITION OF COUNSELOR FOR COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS (NO. 20-O17) WHEN THE INCUMBENT LEAVES, ALONG WITH HIS SUPPORTING SECRETARY (NO. 20-347). EB AND COMMERCE, HOWEVER, HAVE STRONGLY OBJECTED TO ABOLISHMENT OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE COUNSELOR POSITION. THE PRINCIPAL REASONS CITED ARE

(1) THAT ONLY TWO COUNSELOR POSITIONS FOR COMMERCIAL SPECIALISTS EXIST IN ARA AND THEY ARE NEEDED TO CONTINUE CAREER DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMERCIAL OFFICERS AT THE UPPERMOST RANKS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE, (2) MEXICO IS ONE OF OUR MOST IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL MARKETS AND REQUIRES AN OFFICER OF COUNSELOR RANK, WHOSE PERSONAL GRADE IS O-1 OR AT LEAST A SENIOR O-2, FOR THE EMBASSY TO FULFILL ITS COMMERCIAL REPRESENTATION AND TRADE PROMOTION RESPONSIBILITIES.

3. BUREAU SUGGESTS THAT THE POST MAY WISH TO CONSIDER FOLLOWING COURSE OF ACTION WHICH TAKES INTO ACCOUNT RECOMMENDATION NO. 9 IN THE INSPECTORS REPORT OF SEPTEMBER 1975 AND IS ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH STATE AND COMMERCE:

(A) ABOLISH POSITION OF E/C OFFICER LAUREL COOPER (NO. 31-312) NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 30, 1977.

(B) MAINTAIN POSITION OF COMMERCIAL ATTACHE UNTIL BOUTON'S DUTY TOUR IS OVER; WHEN TOUR IS OVER, POSSIBILITY OF DROPPING TITLE AND PLACING POSITION ON A PAR WITH THOSE OF THE OTHER E/C LINE OFFICERS SHOULD BE EXAMINED.

(C) CONTINUE POSITION OF COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR ALONG WITH SUPPORTING SECRETARY.

(D) ABOLISH ANOTHER AMERICAN SECRETARIAL POSITION IN E/C SECTION OR ANY OTHER SECTION OF EMBASSY. ADVISE YOUR CHOICE. IN ANY EVENT INCUMBENT MUST DEPART NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 28, 1977.

4. PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT DATES OF INCUMBENTS' DEPARTURE ON ABOLISHED POSITIONS ARE THE VERY LATEST WE COULD NEGOTIATE. PPG HAS WORLD-WIDE COMMITMENTS TO ESTABLISH NEW POSITIONS, INCLUDING MANY IN THE CONSULAR FUNCTION, IN LIEU OF THOSE ABOLISHED. ACCORDINGLY, THE DEPARTMENT'S ABILITY TO MEET URGENT NEW POSITION REQUIREMENTS WHEN NEEDED IS DIRECTLY TIED TO TIMING OF EXISTING POSITIONS IDENTIFIED FOR ABOLISHMENT.

5. PLEASE LET US HAVE THE EMBASSY'S VIEWS ASAP. KISSINGER
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